緋色王城

Scarlet Palace

5

跟隨王的路

漫畫◎依歡

依歡的個人小檔案

10月19日生
B型天秤座

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TONG LI COMICS

緋色王城

5

漫畫◎依歡

東立

三人之間愛恨交織，誰能留住誰的心？

寧湖雖然被封為夫人，卻因為兄長被大王斷足而對大王疏遠。
為了除去大王王位的威脅，
陵鈺安排了佈局除去大王的親人，卻也讓自己陷入生死關頭。
為了救深陷牢獄的陵鈺，寧湖下了決定…
一開始只是想阻撓寧湖陵鈺相戀的大王，
自己卻也深陷其中…

從2013四月份開始，『星少女』漫畫雜誌要從雙月刊改為月刊了。這表示《緋色王城》之後出書的速度會大為加快，不用等上那麼久了，這真是個好消息。

隨著第五集的出書，劇情也將進入種種大爆炸。故事中的大BOSS也要正式現身了，看到本集劇情最後一頁就知道^_^，請繼續緊追收看喔！

另外，這一集出書後，連畫集也算入的話，這是我出版的第50本書了。劇作的路看似漫長，其實也就是一瞬間的事。每一回的連載都是編織一段幻想，能和讀者同樂與得到共鳴，有時想想也是一段奇妙的緣分。

所以我還會繼續加油！隨著《緋色王城》劇情進入大後半段，我也開始積極籌備新故事了。請繼續多多支持指教喔！

Scarlet Palace
CHAPTER 17
Maris
Thank you for the rawz!
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緋色王城
Scarlet Palace
5

人物介紹

景淵入

負責後宮一切事物的王后少府大人，也是策劃寧湖成為王后的主謀。

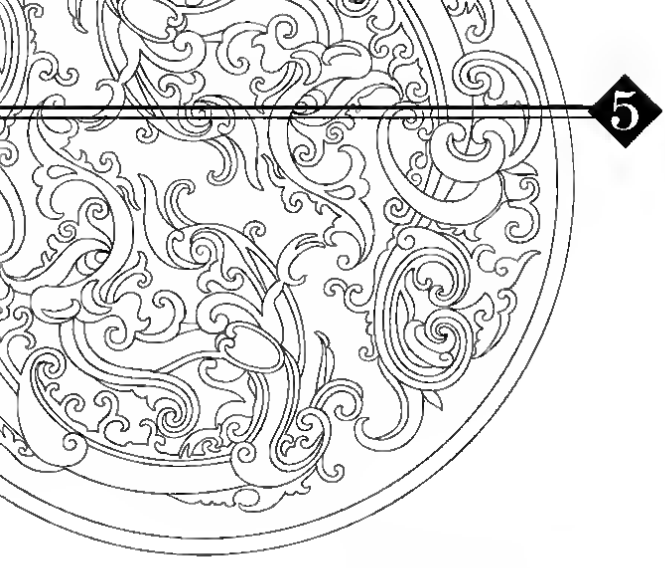
陵鈺

臧國人，貌美如女人一般的男子。為淀王所寵信，捉摸不定的個性。

景寧湖

景氏家族的女兒，被家族密謀成為王后送入宮中，喜歡身為少府的陵鈺。

淀國的年輕君王，傳說中的暴君，寵信陵鈺引起眾臣不滿。
淀王珣
在王宮內負責占卜吉凶的巫女，出身神秘，知道陵鈺非關人的秘密。
谷巫大
大王的後宮夫人之一，也是景氏家族出身，知道寧湖是女人的身分。
明符夫人
曾服侍陵鈺的親侍子綠的弟弟，因為子綠遇襲而入宮，對寧湖有敵意。
子陌
大王的美姬。
紫姬
前情提要
◆淀王珣之所以能成為淀國的大王，是踩著謬殺堆積而來。父王的死去，母后的鮮血，都為王位一步步鋪路。
◆被發現假扮關人的景寧湖，以待罪之身侍奉在大王左右。大王以景氏密謀王后之位的理由，將景氏全族放逐。景淵人為了景氏一族，極力想將寧湖推向王后之位，但寧湖愛的人卻非大王…
◆群臣反對大王將寧湖納為夫人，大王卻一意孤行，且夜夜留宿寧湖之所。但其實大王另有策謀佈局。大王欲將香璃公主遠嫁北疆，寧湖受紫姬之託向大王求情，卻得到冷漠回應…
◆寧湖得知子綠的雙子弟弟子陌進宮擔任陵鈺的親侍後，便向大王請求將子陌調至自己身邊，不料意外發現大王中毒之事，而在寢宮連夜照顧大王。在糾結萬分的心情之下，兩人交纏的血吻，淹沒了朱紅的宮殿…



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Chapter 17
第十七回
跟隨王的路
Following the
Path of a King

LIPS...
THAT STILL HAVE THE TASTE OF BLOOD

Friendship scans
HIS MAJESTY'S EYES...
ARE STILL...
TOO DEEP TO FATHOM

WOULD REMAIN ONLY A DREAM..
FATHER, YUANREN, AND THE WHOLE FAMILY
THEY LEFT ALL OF THEIR HOPES OF REVIVING OUR STATUS TO ME
YET, IF I COULD ATTAIN THE DEEP LOVE OF THE KING...
BEING TOGETHER WITH LORD LING...

Your Majesty?
You should go now.
You neither love me enough..
nor hate me enough.

You as you are presently ...
cannot remain by my side.
THE KING AT THAT TIME...
...DID NOT REFER TO HIMSELF AS THE KING.
BUT SIMPLY USED "I"...
TO HEAR THAT,
HE SOUNDED SO DISTANT AND LONELY
*TL NOTE- SHE IS REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT THE KING USES THE COMMON VERSION OF "I" BECAUSE HE NORMALLY USES THE ROYAL VERSION

**T H YOU MUST READ TO INCOMPLETE SHORT NOVEL ON YI-HUAN'S WEBSITE TO UNTERSTAND THE HISTORY BETWEEN XUN AND ZHAOLIN. ZHAOLIN SAVES XUN IN BATTLE ONCE. HE GETS TO SEE XUN'S CRUEL SIDE, AND HOW XUN METHOTICALLY CRUSHES HIS ENEMY BY STRATEGY. I GOT UP TO WHERE ZHAOLIN IS BEING HELP FOR TREASON DUE TO XUN'S INTERCEPTION OF HIS MESSAGE TO THE NORTHERN KINGDOM'S ENEMY PRINCESS (THE LAST BIT OF THE SHORT NOVEL YI HUAN WROTE.) I'M DYING TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT BUT SHE HASN'T WRITTEN ANY MORE

Whatever it is according to the law.

Your minister understands.

You have captured Jing Kuicheng already?

Yes, Your Majesty.

What will be his sentence?

Zhaolin,

do you still hate us?

Your Majesty!

I, since you entered into service,

have never hated Your Majesty.**

Then...
Maybe you should leave
Your Majesty!
The crowd of enemy nations and ministers that hate me,
We know precisely how they think.
But those who love us,
like my lady mother, like Lingyu,
We can never know what they will do.
We are not afraid of the people who hate us...
but of the people who love us.

Of this matter,
no one is permitted to inform her.
Friendship scans
...your minister understands.
Your Majesty!
You are dismissed!
After Jing Kuicheng's punishment, deliver him back to the Jing clan.
Then warn them.
Should another such occasion arise, the entire family will be executed! Also...

*T N HE'S USING HIS OWN NAME TO REFER TO HIMSELF

Please let me take care of you...
It would be a way for me to do something for Zilu

Hah!

You know why I came into the palace,
why I will never forgive you

If it weren't for the King's directions,
as well as Lord Jing's commend himself,
I would have never come here

But,
The things you say aren't true
About what happened to Zilu,
I still feel badly about it.

The King has also specially and secretly decreed,
that this matter is not to be disclosed to the lady
How did the King punish Jing Kuichang?
The King only levied the charge of breaking into the palace
His legs were broken, and he was returned to the Jing family
Who is there?
What do you want?
Lord Jing...
This lowly one is Zimo
I know that Lord Jing has always been concerned about my elder brother Zilu,
I have always wanted to personally thank my Lord...

There is no need.
From now on you must serve my Lady carefully.
Zimo understands.

Lingyu presents his regards to Your Majesty
What is this?
That is because ...
You say you want to return to your hometown?
Your Majesty no longer has need of Lingyu.

Because of Jing Ninghu?
You hate us for taking her away,
and therefore wish to leave us?
If the King likes Ninghu,
Lingyu can only retreat
No...
not because of Ninghu
because the King no longer trusts Lingyu
Lingyu wishes to take leave...

For example ...
Your Majesty's continued concealment of the poisoning affair
You...
Does Your Majesty still want to expose that person?
The high regard I bear to His Majesty the King...
has not once changed
I want Your Majesty to become ruler of the most powerful nation

I once said...
The things that the King wishes to accomplish, but cannot..
No matter how black...
This is my destiny in following Your Majesty.
should be entrusted to Lingyu.

Friendship scans

Zilu must have really loved you
You really do look the same as Zilu!
Who is taking care of Zilu right now..
Did you two grow up together?
Zimo..

*T.N: EXAMPLE: THE SERVANTS

I don't want to speak to you of Zilu.
If my lady doesn't want to take tea, just dismiss them*.
Zimo! I...
Miss Jing should look after herself!
The Jing clan has already been demoted and exiled by order of the King.
Now with the King's added punishment I'm afraid the clan's status will be too difficult to revive.

Why not first be concerned about your own elder brother?
Instead of being concerned with my elder brother,
The King...
has again punished the Jing clan!?
You still don't know?
What you said...
Wait! Zimo!

WHAT?
Because Jing Kuicheng previously snuck into the palace,
General Zhao himself captured him.
His Majesty,
has decreed that the Jing clan be subjugated to 3 months of hard labour.
MY BROTHER, KUICHENG!
They . how did they punish my brother?

His Majesty decreed both of his legs to be broken,
and then for him to be returned immediately to the exiled lands.
it is said that...
NINGHU ...I WILL RETURN TO SEE YOU!
BROTHER KUICHENG!

It's raining heavily.
Your Majesty should choose another day to pay his respects to the Grand Dowager Queen!
It doesn't matter. Let's go.
Open the umbrellas quickly!

That's... Miss Jing?
Servants! Fetch an umbrella ...
Your Majesty?
Why are you standing in the pouring rain?

Friendship scans

Your Majesty, please ...
decide.
still hasn't replied ...
Your Majesty, the King ...
regarding Ninghu's request,
on whether to receive me into the seraglio...
or to..
treat me no different than an exile

You would become an exile or die rather than marry me...
You still wish to leave the palace?
This expression of grief and hate
how can you think I would let you as you are now into the seraglio?
Such a shame...
You know about Jing Kuicheng?

Neither you nor Lingyu
may leave.

Your Majesty?
THIS IS FOR THE BETTER
WITH HOW MUCH SHE HATES ME
I CAN RELAX ABOUT LEAVING HER AT MY SIDE

I COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED
LONG AGO, I BELIEVED
THAT I HAD STEERED MYSELF AGAINST ANY EXPRESSION OF ANIMOSITY TOWARDS ME

Lady Priestess.
It's you.
Only to visit you.
What do you want?

Don't you not believe in it?
Or that the King will have some kind of misfortune?
Right?

Also to see if you could divine for the King

Lingyu is just making small talk
I'm going to my usual drinking place.

I'm afraid that the concerned parties will not be content
Recently, it's said that the affairs of the King aren't too peaceful.
Like the poisoning of the king

I BELIEVED THAT I COULD REMAIN BY THE KING'S SIDE FOREVER...
I NEVER THOUGHT MUCH OF MY HOME-TOWN
LINGYU! I WANT TO RETURN TO LIVING IN QIN!
ELDER BROTHER..
QIN NO LONGER EXISTS

I WOULD NEVER HAVE POISONED HIM
AS SUCH
HIS MAJESTY'S NATION,
IS MY NATION
LORD STEWARD ...
LORD LING?

My lord!
Ninghu has brought your wine!
Ninghu?
What's going on?
Why are you dressed like a personal attendant?

No

Because I want to return to the appearance of being your personal attendant
You still want to be a serving girl?

I only thought I would reminisce about the days I was at my lord's side

Since I've entered the palace
those were my happiest moments.

MY LORD'S INTENTIONS WERE NOT KNOWN
WHEN HE WOULD TOY WITH ME, BUT

My lord?
Really, eh...
So it isn't true that right now
Is when you're most happy?

Ninghu
I...
You don't want to be the King's consort?
...for the Jing clan,
should become His Majesty's consort, and then the Queen.
But
I only want to remain by my lord's side.
No...
Because this kind of occasion...
Will disappear in the blink of an eye...
So it should be the most painful.

According to what they say
I don't count as a man.
Haha!
My lord!
But
I'm...
Then I also don't want to count as a woman!
This is my Ninghu

The only Ninghu
That I like...
My lord... I don't want to...
Leave your side...

BUT FOR NINGHU
I CAN RELINQUISH ANYTHING

I SAID TO THE KING...
IF THE KING LIKES NINGHU THEN I COULD RETREAT
BUT I'M WRONG.

I CAN DO ANYTHING FOR THE KING...

THE KING STILL CANNOT DISCERN
HOW HE FEELS!
BETWEEN US THREE
NONE CAN APPROACH
AND NONE CAN LET GO

AFTERWARDS, IN THE EARLY WINTER...
IGNORING ALL PROTESTS THE DING KING XUN
BESTOWED THE TITLE OF ROYAL CONSORT ONTO THE CRIMINAL DAUGHTER OF THE JINGS ENTERING HER INTO THE SERAGLIO
TO BESTOW PEACE
EVEN IF THE DING KING MADE THE RESOLUTION...
NOT TO ENTER THE SERAGLIO, EVEN BY ONE STEP
STILL WAS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE

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Chapter 18- The Decision
第十八回・決断

My lady consort,
it's time for repast.
Dont call me that ...
It has already been two months,
my lady consort should get accustomed to it

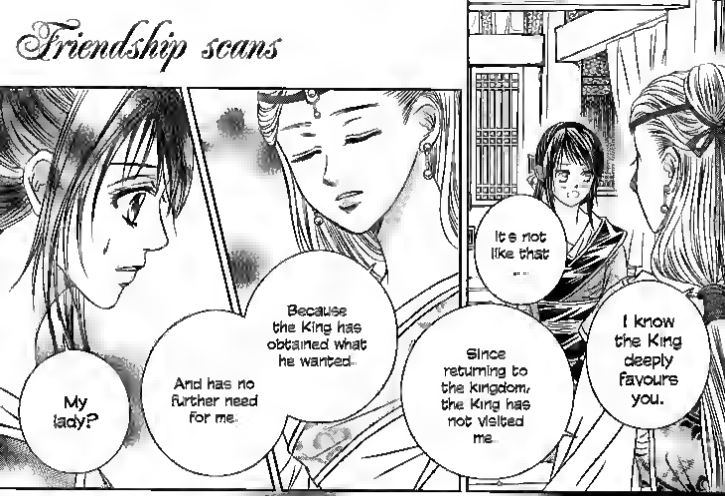
TWO MONTHS...
THE KING MADE ME INTO A ROYAL CONSORT TWO MONTHS AGO.
YET HE HAS NEVER VISITED ME.
THE KING IN FACT HAS NEVER ENTERED THE SERAGLIO
Lord Jing has required the maidservants to change their address too.
Zimo..
You're really obedient towards Lord Jing's instructions!
Lord Jing is the Queen's steward!
Of course one has to follow his intent!
Haha! You're right.
Looks like you like Lord Jing a lot!
You..!
Lady Jing!
A guest has arrived

Friendship scans

It's Lady Waike
Lady Waike?
Ninghu pays her respects to the Lady Waike

LADY WAIKE FROM QI KINGDOM.
IT IS SAID THAT SHE IS THE ONLY ONE THE KING WILL APPROACH IN THE SERAGLIO.
BUT EVER SINCE THE KING HAS RETURNED FROM THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM,
HE HAS NOT SEEN HER ONCE
WHY
DOES SHE WANT TO SEE ME?
My lady consort.
This is the first time I've seen you dressed as a lady.
Truly, you are a lady of nobility.
Don't address me as such.
We are the same.

Friendship scans


My lady?
And has no further need for me.
Because the King has obtained what he wanted.
Since returning to the kingdom, the King has not visited me.
It's not like that...
I know the King deeply favours you.

He was a gentleman.
And we were to be married.
Even in the end, he wanted to take me away from thie place.
My fiancé.
The assassination attempt on the King when he returned...
The one who lost his life was the Prince of Qi, JiuHuan!!

I only wanted the King to give him an honorable funeral.
The king has done well.
WAS LEAKED BY LADY WAIKE TO THE KING?
COULD IT BE...THE QI PRINCE'S PLOT TO ASSASSINATE THE KING
Don't be as foolish as me
I only wanted to tell you...

LADY WAIKE...
LET THE KING KILL HER OWN FIANCÉ...
COULD IT BE THAT SHE HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE KING?
OR THAT SHE WAS HELPLESS?
Lady Jing!
The Grand Dowager Queen has summoned you
Present yourself immediately
Your Majesty?
It's nothing
Let's go!

Friendship scans

Your Majesty has frequently paid his respects to the Grand Dowager Queen
But after meeting her...
Because of the Yang family execution,
Grandmother's rage cannot be appeased
It would be best ...

Ninghu
Presents her regards to Your Majesty the King...
How come
In the two months we haven't seen you...
you've become so thin?

To answer Your Majesty,
the Grand Dowager Queen has summoned Lady Jing.
Why did you come?
With your Majesty's permission,
Ninghu will first retire.
Your Majesty?
Zhaolin!
Don't let anyone approach!

You are still thinking about the incident of Jing Kuicheng?
Do you know what kind of punishment befits that crime?
As a demoted citizen breaking into the palace at night,
breaking both his legs should be considered lenient...
Ninghu knows...
The crimes of the Jing family,
The crimes of her elder brother,
That any punishment given is guaranteed

But...
Elder Brother and Ninghu are of the same blood.
and so I cannot overlook my concern
You think that because we are not of the same blood,
we cannot understand what it is to worry?
No...
You listened to the Jing family's directive
And they've made a request of us.
We have already granted it.
So...
shouldn't you keep your word?

Friendship scans

Your Majesty?
To serve us...
We agreed to receive you into the seraglio...
And you would then forget Lingyu
With your whole heart.
Ninghu ...
has not forgotten.

Return
Your Majesty!
I was hoping that your Majesty ...
Would visit the seraglio ...
You wish.
for us to visit the seraglio?
Your Majesty could approach the royal consorts ...
Lady Waike, she...

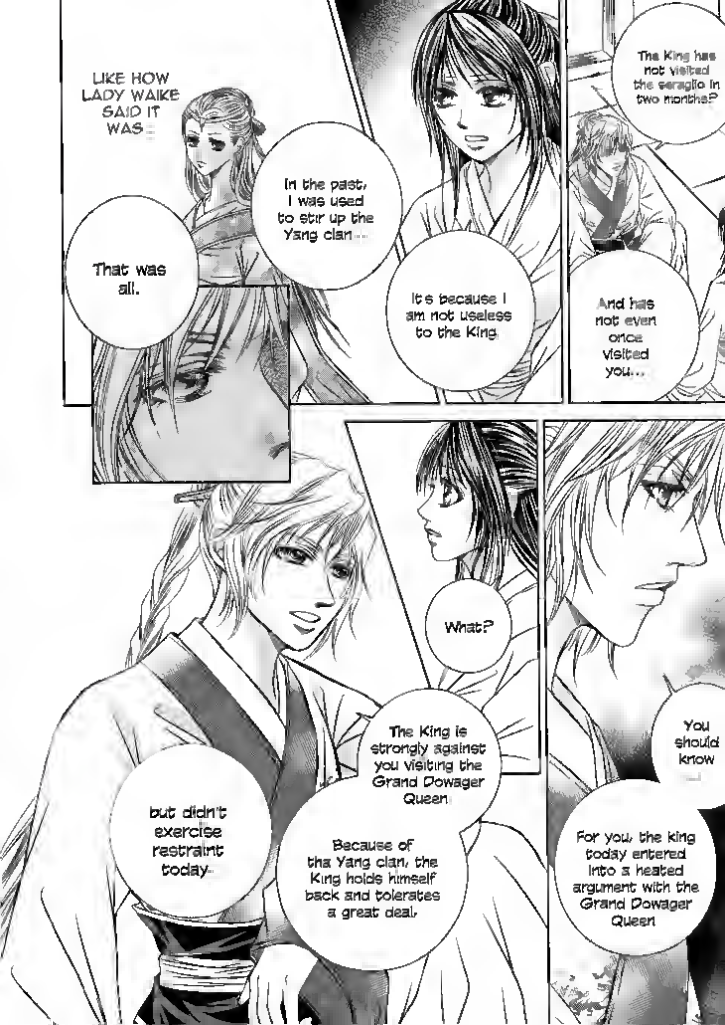
Friendship scans

Your Majesty.
Understood
Go back to your quarters!
Also...
You are not permitted to see the Grand Dowager Queen
We ourselves will explain why to our grandmother

My lady!
Have the gifts from the King arrived?
The King? He has bestowed me with gifts?
This late?
Return them!
After the King saw my lady during the day,
he sent presents at night,
really
How can you ...
the King clearly specified,
to have the Lord Steward himself present them!

Friendship scans

I'm very happy to see my lord...
It was difficult to come see you.
But I am now...
Why are you not happy?
My Lord!
See whomever I want.
I go wherever I want inside the palace.
You've forgotten I'm the King's Steward Lord Lingyu?


LIKE HOW LADY WAIKE SAID IT WAS...
In the past, I was used to stir up the Yang clan...
That was all.
It's because I am not useless to the King.
The King has not visited the seraglio in two months?
And has not even once visited you...
What?
You should know...
The King is strongly against you visiting the Grand Dowager Queen.
but didn't exercise restraint today.
Because of the Yang clan, the King holds himself back and tolerates a great deal.
For you, the king today entered into a heated argument with the Grand Dowager Queen

My lord!
and that wouldn't have been very courteous to you.
That old hag wanted to place a Yang family girl next to the King,
Don't perceive the king like everybody else.
It's not as you believe.
You just don't understand him.
My lord...
In the past, why did you decide to follow the king?
Between him and the king... there is an invisible thread.
AT THE TIME, I THOUGHT OF BROTHER YUANREN'S WORDS..

Maybe it's because I wanted to eat chicken with salt!
My lord is joking with me!
It's true. But I still haven't eaten any to date.
Ah?
ROASTED CHICKEN IS VERY DIFFICULT TO COME BY IN THE PALACE?
At that time, the Ding Prince Xun...
Had an aura that made one want to follow him.
Or even die for him one day without regrets!

HE HAS THIS LOOK OF KINDNESS IN HIS EYES
THIS GLOW, IT ALMOST POURS FORTH FROM HIS GAZE.
EVERY TIME I SEE MY LORD SPEAK OF THE KING
The King...
has not disappointed me.
If you were to remain by the King's side,
I could be at peace.

It's now late...
BUT THE PERSON I LIKE IS YOU, MY LORD!
The Lord Steward should return!
WHY THOSE WORDS?
BE AT PEACE?
MY LORD ALSO BELIEVES I WOULD BE BETTER OFF AS A ROYAL CONSORT BY THE KING'S SIDE?
REALLY
WHAT WAS I HOPING FOR?
The gifts bestowed by the king.
Ninghu will treasure it!
TO FORGET LORD LING FROM NOW.
I ALSO PROMISED THE KING...

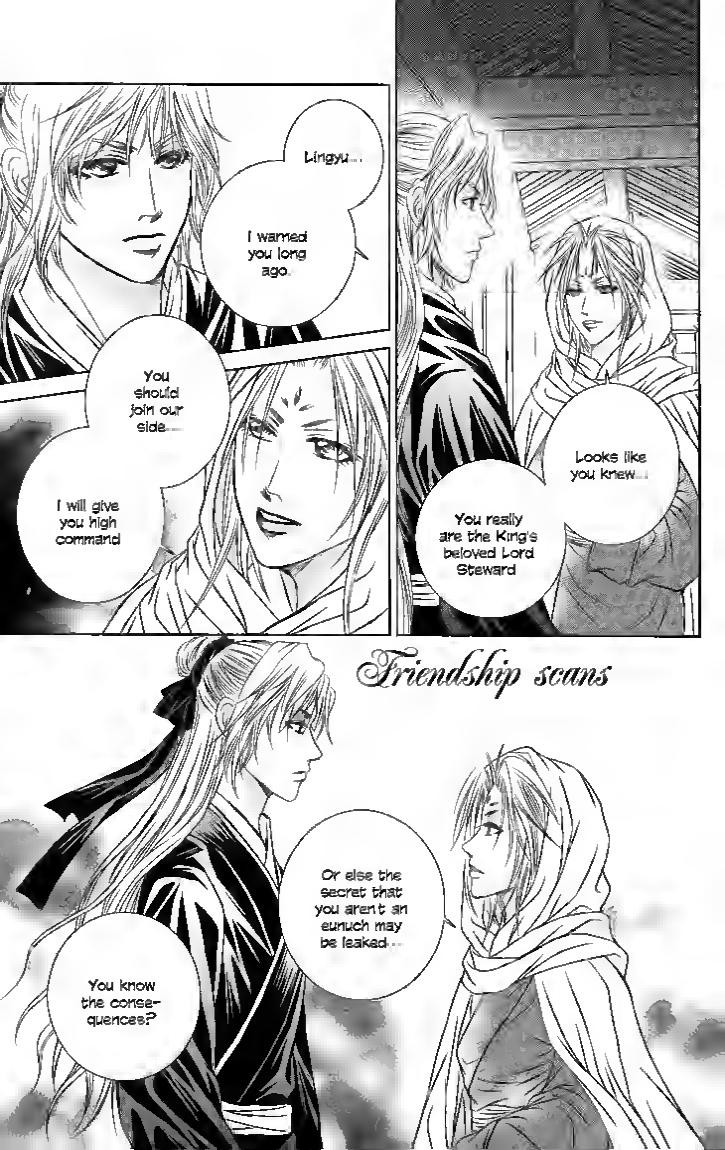
Friendship scans

Please follow me!
Lady priestess
It's too late to run away now.
I should change my address...
Lady priestess ...
No...

Your Highness Princess Mingjin
Eldest princess
The King stripped you of your status,
It has circulated to the outside that the Eldest Princess had died of an illness
in the past
because of your opposition to the King's accession you were exiled
as you were determined to revolt against him.
The Grand Dowager Queen placed you in the temple to become a priestess

Friendship scans

The eldest princess could have lived out her days in peace,
but now has done something stupid
You wanted your title and status back
You thought no one would know?
You secretly contacted the Eastern Wuxuan clan,
seeking to take the throne with them.
You thought I would forgive you!?
You poisoned the King ...
Your Highness, the Eldest princess


Lingyu...
I warned you long ago.
You should join our side...
I will give you high command
Looks like you knew...
You really are the King's beloved Lord Steward
Friendship scans
Or else the secret that you aren't an eunuch may be leaked...
You know the conse-quences?

What did you say?
You really...
You all...
Things that are secrets ...
If said aloud are no longer secrets

I already disclosed the whole affair...
to the central authorities.
Lingyu!
You don't fear death?
You still don't understand?
Your Highness Princess Mingjin...
I...
knew from the start what your intent was.
To gain your trust---
I appeared by your side.
Bind the princess's hands together.

Your Majesty!
Get out...
All of you just get out!

Friendship scans

THE PRINCESS MINGJIN WHO WAS SAID TO HAVE DIED OF ILLNESS,
HAD IN FACT REAPPEARED AS A PRIESTESS
And now the princess has joined with the eastern Wuxuan clan to start a revolt.
and planned to poison the King to resume her title
Rumor has it...
The eldest princess not only plotted with the eastern Wuxuan Clan,
but also Lord Lingyu.
THE MATTER OF THE ELDEST PRINCESS HAVING NOT YET DIED...
SPREAD ACROSS THE PALACE RAPIDLY

It is said that Lord Ling is not an eunuch.
It must be he was involved in the revolt,
or he wouldn't have lied to the King or the people of Ding
Lord Ling has already confessed to everything.
How could it be?
Lord Lingyu. .
Is not a eunuch and has intent to revolt?
HOW COULD IT BE?
LORD LINGYU!

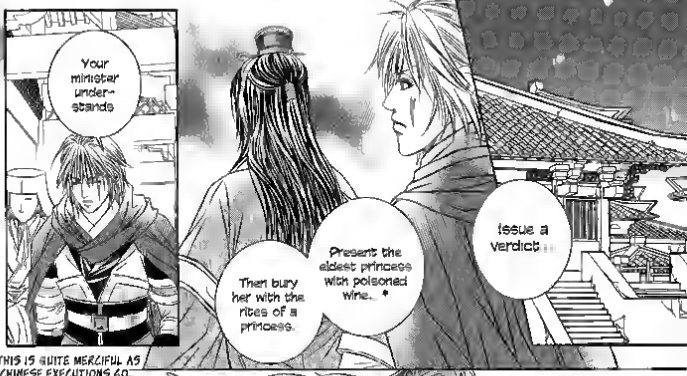
His Majesty the King descends from high!
You all leave us.

Why did you...
Rebel?
Or is it permitted to once again call you younger brother?
It's been a long time, your Majesty
You all can't figure it out?
Thought I'd be content as a priestess?
Because priestesses cannot marry,
and cannot bear children
It does not threaten your throne
Friendship scans

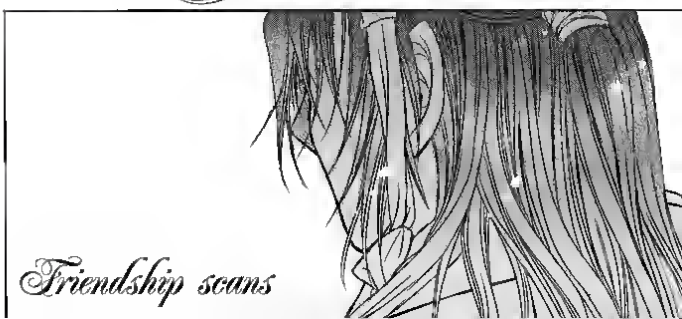
wanted to restore my former status.
I only...

You and the Wuxuan Clan's secret revolt,
How long has it been going on?
When Lingyu approached me...
Wuxuan Clan has always wanted to seize the throne
Right now their army is sufficient in strength, their treasury is high in number
He not only revealed the secret that he wasn't a eunuch to me
He led me to believe I had every confidence in him.
It was the time for me to act, but I failed
Could it be that Lingyu hasn't told you?
Didn't you arrange to have him by my side?
but has given you the opportunity to rid yourself of the Wuxuan clan.
A powerful person indeed.
Now, for you, he has not only removed me,

Xun...
If you cannot let me live on as a princess ...
Then it's better to let me die as a princess.
You... have never thought that...
We are siblings of the same flesh?
The Ding King Xun, famed to be dripping with blood...
what would he know about affection?
Do you have a last request?


Your minister understands
Present the eldest princess with poisoned wine.. *
Then bury her with the rites of a princess.
Issue a verdict..

*THIS IS QUITE MERCIFUL AS CHINESE EXECUTIONS GO.



This beautiful moonscape..
I will not see it again.
Zhaolin.
Your minister is present-

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Scarlet Palace
CHAPTER 14
Maria
Thank you for the request!
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第十九回 王的桎梏

Scarlet Palace Chapter 19:
The King's Shackle

Lord Ling!
Please remove the anklet.
This was personally given to me by the King himself.
You dare touch it?
This...

"You cannot leave us... You cannot betray us..."
"This is what you have promised."

Your Majesty, The King!
Lingyu is of Qi,
deep inside his heart, the thought of rebelling must be there!
OF course he would rebel with the eldest princess and the Wuxuan clan!
This kind of treacherous sycophant,
We better get rid of him quickly!
This minister believes that Lingyu should be given the utmost punishment!

Your Majesty, you should think this over carefully!
Lord Ling has always been loyal! There must be some mis-understanding!
Maybe there is someone who's trying to undermine him!
Please, let your Majesty open an investigation again!
Prime Minister,
What do you recommend?
*T/N: A GENTLE WAY OF SAYING DEATH.
Your Majesty
The Lord Steward has already confessed his crime. The Eldest Princess has already been executed.
This old minister suggests the appropriate punishment! *

Your Majesty should reconsider!
Lord Ling couldn't have rebelled!
Your Majesty cannot let this go!
Or else, how can the other ministers of Ding be satisfied?
Enough!
The opinions of the court .
we will reflect on them

Friendship scans

REGARDING LORD LING'S SENTENCE
THE COURT VIGOROUSLY PURSUED THE ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT.
ONLY A FEW MINISTERS PLED FOR LORD LING
THE WHOLE COURT WAS IN A CEASELESS UPROAR
The King
How has he decided?
He'll probably listen to the court,
and sentence Lingyu to death
The eldest princess is already dead,
And the King has already raised the army against the Wukuan.
Now, if the punishment varies, it will provoke resistiveness.

Lingyu has already admitted his guilt.
He must have realized what was to happen.
To appease the nobles...
The King cannot avoid sacrificing Lord Ling?
This is... for the better...
THE UNSEEN BOND BETWEEN THOSE TWO...
BACK THEN
THIS IS WHAT LORD LING MEANT
WILL COME TO THIS KIND OF END?
Brother Yuanran... you once said...
That by complying to your plans,
I would become queen
Miss Jing?

FOR LORD LING...
I CANNOT...
LET THINGS STAY AS THEY ARE
Maybe Brother Yuanren will be disappointed...
Maybe the Jing clan will be disappointed
But, I don't want to remain as your pawn anymore.
But now...
I wish to follow my own path
NINGHU...

Friendship scans

WHAT
CAN I REALLY DO?
HOW MANY PEOPLE DO I HAVE TO SACRIFICE
TO CONTINUE ON THIS PATH?

MING JIN...
MOTHER...
THOSE OF MY KIN WHO HAVE DIED FOR THE THRONE
TO BECOME A WANDERING GHOST FOR THE THRONE?
AND NOW IT'S YOUR TURN...
I THOUGHT THAT I'VE DONE ENOUGH...
KILLED ENOUGH PEOPLE
BUT TO MOVE ONE MORE STEP FORWARD...
I MUST SACRIFICE YET MORE PEOPLE
This minister has an issue to report...
Didn't we say that no one is to disturb us!?
It's Lady Jing...
Your Majesty!

T/N:
NINSHU IS KNEELING. SHE IS UNDERSCORING THE "LONG KNEEL" WHICH TRADITIONALLY IS WHAT DESPERATE PEOPLE DO TO BEG SOMETHING OF POWERFUL PEOPLE
What are you staring at?
Is a royal consort someone you dare stare at?
Really
There's no one here
No
My lady, please return!

You know I hate you!
If you provoke the King, I will not pity you!
Isn't this is pointless?
Zima... You're right
I'm probably considered very foolish
For Zilu, you entered the palace
For the people I love.
I can only weakly place myself here.
I don't have your courage
I must save Lord Ling...
and this is the only way I know how
You...

Friendship scans

You really are stupid!
Of course the King will not let Lingyu go just because of this!
What's the point of kneeling here?
You're wrong
The only way to save Lord Ling is through this
If possible...
I wish I was the person kneeling

Is she still outside the door?
To answer Your Majesty,
Lady Ninghu has been kneeling* outside the door since yesterday until now

TN: PERFORMING THE "LONG KNEEL" AND "REMEMBER, IT'S WINTER TIME.

Friendship scans

Your Majesty, the King!
Go back!
Your Majesty...
Jing Ninghu...
Do not threaten us with your life!
This is the only way to save Lord...

Your Majesty, the King!
It is said that the seraglio's Lady Jing is pleading for Linyu
The lady has previously served Linyu as his attendant, and has therefore done this...
Don't be deceived!
Lady Jing could also be involved in the plot!
Your Majesty should also administer her punishment!
Let your Majesty's wisdom not be hampered!*

T/N: FORMAL WAY OF SAYING "YOU'RE WRONG." THIS IS FORMAL LANGUAGE AND DIFFICULT TO TRANSLATE.

You still don't understand?
Lord Jing...
Zimo doesn't understand why Lady Jing is doing this
But if Lady Jing pleads for Lord Ling's life...
The eldest princess rebelled and was executed, and the king has issued soldiers against the Wuxuan clan...
and the King more than deeply favors my lady...
She has previously served Lord Ling.
At this point, he has no intention of letting Lord Ling live.
putting my lady to death would be sufficient *
After Lord Ling is safe,
If it's like this...
Wouldn't the court be disappointed in the King?
If the King releases Lord Ling for my lady,
the court will think the king is momentarily acting based on his emotions

T/N: CONSORTS AND QUEENS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO INFLUENCE COURT MATTERS. IT'S CONSIDERED TO BE VERY BAD, EVEN THOUGH OF COURSE THEY DO. ONE IS SUPPOSED TO DO IT DISCREETLY.

My little Lady Ninghu
is beginning to understand matters more clearly
This is not good at all
Lord Jing?
So...
Lady Jing intends to trade her own life for Lord Ling's?
Ninghu is not willing to be my pawn
Yet, she is wholeheartedly willing to become the King's pawn

Friendship scans

If...
We were to let Lingyu go,
and stop pursuing the Wuxuan clan...
What would happen?
Your Majesty?
For Lingyu, she...
will apparently do anything
So it comes to this...
For Lingyu,
she would give up her life.

She thinks that we are...
only interested in using her?
T/N: XUN IS REFERRING TO USING HER AS A PAWN
Your Majesty...
And...
Why is it that we cannot use her?*
Leave him alone.
Lord Ling doesn't eat or drink, he might...
He's merely a Qi citizen.
Really, he shouldn't even be here.

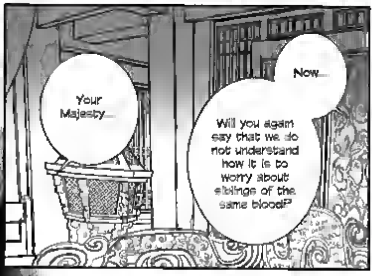
LORD LING
HOW IS HE NOW?
Get inside quickly!
It's snowing!
You're going to freeze to death!
No...
You ..

Your Majesty, the King
You... are you really unafraid?
Your Majesty...
Ninghu is unafraid

In the days to come
Have no regrets.
Then...

Your Majesty, the King
The broth has been prepared
You are all dismissed
Yes
Drink this
You'll be warmer

You must think that we are heart-less?


Your Majesty...
Now...
Will you again say that we do not understand how it is to worry about siblings of the same blood?

We had 13 brothers and sisters.
Some died in the covert battles over the throne
Some disappeared under mysterious circumstances
YOUR MAJESTY
Even if we tried with all our strength to let them live on,
their deaths still occurred.

And you...
regardless of the consequences to your family or what the court may think
You disregard your life
just to save him?
We don't want this to happen again
Yet Lingyu has caused us to lose an elder sister
T/N: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME XUN ACKNOWLEDGES IT WITH THIS YEAR AND NOT MERELY WITH "DEEPLY LIKE"
love* Lingyu that much?
You really

Your Majesty!
Ninghu can disregard her own life to save Lord Ling!
But does your Majesty really want him dead?
Lord Ling
Your Majesty is fully aware that he did this for you!
considers Your Majesty as a very precious person
Lord Ling is also an important person to you, Your Majesty!
Lingyu
is an important person to us?

We only know that...
We need him...
yet, we want to leave him
Your Majesty?
T/N THESE ARE THE PRONOUNS HE USES
From when I* only understood very little, until I learned a lot...
Everything was accomplished by his hands
Step by step...
He's become the dark reflection of my* heart...

T/N: A REMINDER THAT THE ROYAL WE = THIS LONE PERSON. THE PARALLELISM IS LOST IN TRANSLATION. THESE ARE THE PRONOUNS HE USED: A MIX OF "I" AND THE ROYAL "WE"

He brings harm and discomfort to himself...
only to push us ahead.
We* believed that we could be aloof,
and only he could see that I* was lying to myself.
Each of us was tormented...
and thus, we both realized that we needed each other.
This time...
we've come to a dead end.
Again and again, these torments of blood...
have cost me* the opportunity to be a different person

Your Majesty and Lord Ling both don't need Ninghu
But Your Majesty needs Lord Ling
If we agree to your request,
do you know the consequences?
Understand that you are of the Jing clan...
and will be disowned by them all
At the end, we will have to execute you
So, Ninghu will not have any regrets

In the days to come, you are not of Jing
As of now, you have nothing
What we give you
will be your everything
Even your life
is ours to give
Then Jing Ningju
The you that you are now is dead

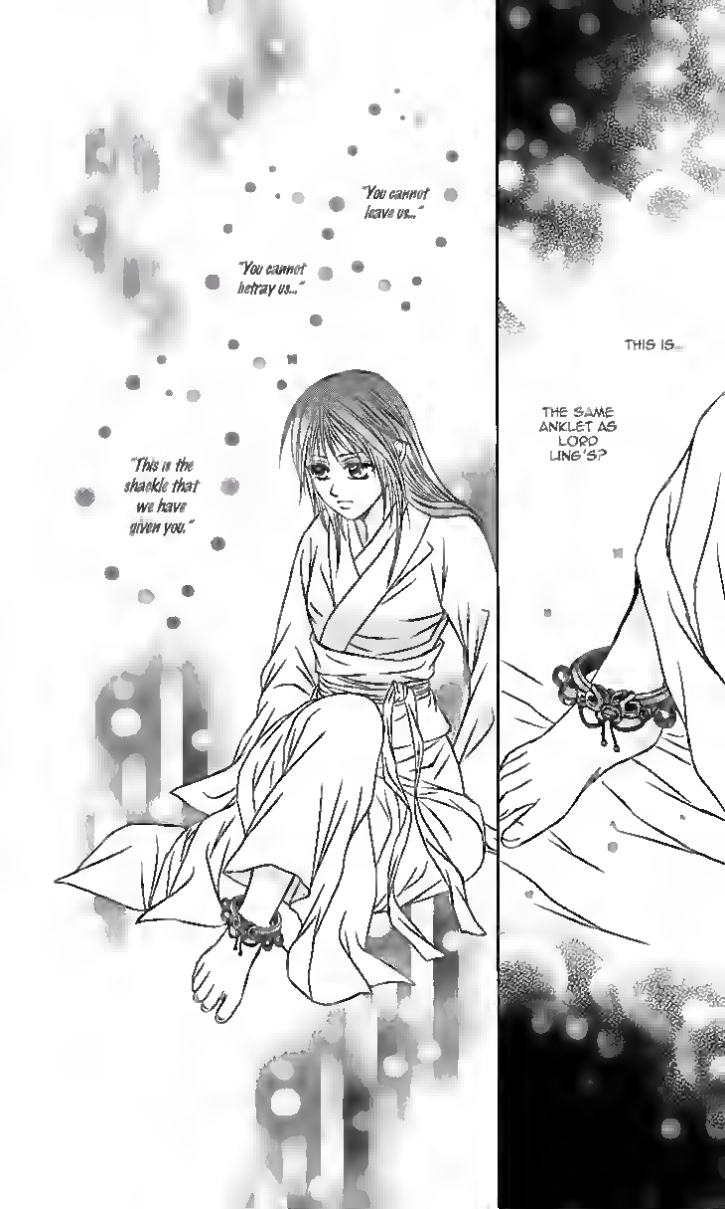
Friendship scans

IF POSSIBLE

WE SHOULD LET YOU LEAVE THIS PLACE ONE DAY IT WOULD BE THE BEST FOR YOU

I THINK I AM HEARING
THE COURT'S VIVID PROTESTS
AND RISING ABOVE IT ALL...
I THINK I CAN SEE
THE KING'S COLD, PIERCING GAZE
AND LORD LING HEADING TOWARDS THE DARKNESS?

A DREAM?
Lord Ling!
THE KING WILL REALLY LET LINGYU LIVE?
AND SAID I WILL NOT DIE
THE KING AGREED TO MY REQUEST
AND I SEEMED TO HEAR THE KING SAY...


"You cannot leave us..."
"You cannot betray us..."
"This is the shackle that we have given you."
THIS IS...
THE SAME ANKLET AS LORD LING'S?

Out?
Why?
This lowly one was sent to bring you out.
Lord Ling!
I can get up by myself.
My lord, take care!
Ninghu...

IT IS SAID THAT THE KING OF DING'S PALACE
IS STAINED RED BY HIS ENEMIES' BLOOD.
REALLY, IT SHOULD BE
THE KING'S OWN BLOOD WHICH STAINS IT.

The Ding King Xun eliminated the most powerful family the Wuxuan.

From then on, he ceased to be threatened by his own family's clan.

ONLY THESE COULD CREATE THE KINGDOM OF DING

AND BLOOD STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

COUNTLESS ENEMIES...

THE KING'S BLOOD SIBLINGS...

THE WORLDLY NOBILITY...

Not only the citizens and ministers of his own kingdom, but even the neighboring countries feared the King of Ding.

From then on, his power was enough to shock all under heaven.

LIVING IN THIS BLOOD-RED PALACE...
I MADE A DECISION NOT TO FLEE
The Ding King Xun not only released his previously trusted Lingyu of Qi who had revolted
But he also deeply favored the criminal daughter of the Jings who had lost her noble status
Within the Ding King's palace, how could there be peace...

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Between The Three
第二十回
三人之間

In the deep of winter
The King mobilized the army to eliminate the Wuxuan clan
yet restored Lord Ling's post
Even the prime minister was forced to retire.
The ministers who had wanted Lord Ling punished,
either resigned or were driven from their posts
At first, everyone was uneasy,
but only faint murmurs could be heard
I THINK THAT THE KING, IN MAKING THIS DECISION...
MUST HAVE HAD A GREAT DEAL OF ANGUISH

My lady! Please drink your medicine.

FROM THAT DAY FORTH,
I BECAME EXTREMELY ILL,
AND I HAVE NOT BEEN OUT AT ALL.
Zimo?
THE RINGING SHACKLE OF THIS ANKLE BRACELET
ALMOST SOUNDS OF THE KING'S LONELI-NESS

Those people?
It's nothing, hurry up and drink this quickly!
Pay no attention to those people!
Even if the remaining high ministers dare not discuss this openly,
within the seraglio, rumors run unchecked!
They say that my lady has used her wiles to influence the king, dabbling in politics.
this gossip has even spread to the populace.
I don't even care anymore
Zimo
Regarding this

Only in this secret chamber...
Can your Majesty return to himself.

Correct.
I really am your burden.
This suffering...
most of it was inflicted on us by you.
BUT...
YOU ARE ALSO MY ONLY SOLACE
You plotted this long ago?
Using Mingjin to eliminate the Wuxuan ..
IGNORED BY MY MOTHER...
BETRAYED BY MY RELATIVES...
WHEN I'M ALL ALONE WITHOUT RESPITE
ONLY HERE CAN I EXPRESS WHAT IS IN MY HEART

The Wuxuan. .
are one of the powerful families of the west, and have eyed the throne greedily
Sooner or later they would have secretly rebelled,
and brought about great calamity
So...
even at the cost of your life, you would have us eliminate them?
Lingyu wouldn't have died.
I knew that once Your Majesty won the war against them, I would be released
SHUT UP!

Friendship scans

Friendship scans

There-
fore,
Let
Ninghu
go!
She will
be like
you and
me,
here in
the
palace
forever.
...It's too
late.
If your
Majesty
decides
as such,
then...
We now do
not want
her to
leave.

Friendship scans

Lingyu...
You and Ninghu...
neither can depart.
This is what you both have promised us.
I will take her away.
Lingyu also will not stay here.

Jiji?
Did you hear?
The Northern country has made Princess Xiangri their Queen.
You're happy that she won't return?
Ninghui
I was really fooled by you.

I didn't think you were like this.
Now I believe what they all say...
Everything you do is to advance your prospects of being queen!
I'm quite foolish...
Maybe you'll meet the same fate as Xiangri!

THE GOSSIP OF THE COURT...IS FOCUSED ON ME...
SEDUCING THE KING
MEDDLING WITH POLITICS
DOING ALL THESE THINGS TO LEAD THE KING TO MAKE ME QUEEN
THESE WORDS,
THEY DO NOT MATTER ANYMORE
I ONLY WANT
IF ONLY THAT PERSON

Ninghu.
IF ONLY HE WERE SAFE, I WOULD BE CONTENT
Lord Ling.
You are dismissed.
The King wishes for me to converse in private with the Lady
Huh?

*EUNUCHS ONLY FOR OBVIOUS REASONS
My Lord..
How could the King permit my Lord into the seraglio?*
I go wherever I want.
LORD LING IS NOW...
DING KINGDOM'S MOST POWERFUL OFFICIAL.
THE WORDS ARE CORRECT
THE PRIME MINISTER HAVING RETIRED,
IN INFLUENCING THE KING NO ONE COULD COMPARE
AS BEFORE,
MY LORD IS AS CARE-FREE AS EVER

The king, did he...
place those bells on you himself?
Ninghu...
This...
The King, really!
I thought it was a secret between the two of us.
I too, will leak it to other people!
A SECRET...
LORD LING ALSO KNOWS THE KING'S MEANING?

*THE ROYAL, SINGULAR US, REFERRING TO HIMSELF

THE KING SAID... THIS IS A SHACKLE.
YOU CANNOT LEAVE US...*
YOU CANNOT BETRAY US...
DID LORD LING ALSO PROMISE THE SAME?
What are you thinking about?

The King certainly has returned you to your former rank.
But my lord is well aware...
You want me to leave the palace?
And even Ding?
In the days to come it will only get more dangerous.
leaving would be for the best.
My lord...
you should leave for a safer place.
THE KING'S WORDS AT THAT TIME
LEFT ME WITH A SENSE OF UNEASE
we thought we had come to a conclusion.
This time...
Likewise debated by the court,
what will you do?
And yourself?

Really?
Is it for Jing?
For me?
Or for the king?
Ninghu has decided...
to stay here
You know well, if this continues...
sooner or later the King must sentence you to death.
Yet you want to stay.
MY LORD!
you have fallen in love with him?
Because the King has made you a royal consort...

My lord...
I am now a royal
I know

I will not leave you behind.
LORD LING...
I REALLY WANTED YOU TO KNOW...
TOWARDS YOU
MY DEVOTION HAS NOT CHANGED ONE BIT...
SIR...
IF I had died in the dungeon... I wouldn't be thinking this.
But I'm alive now
so...

*T/N: FORMAL LANGUAGE AGAIN

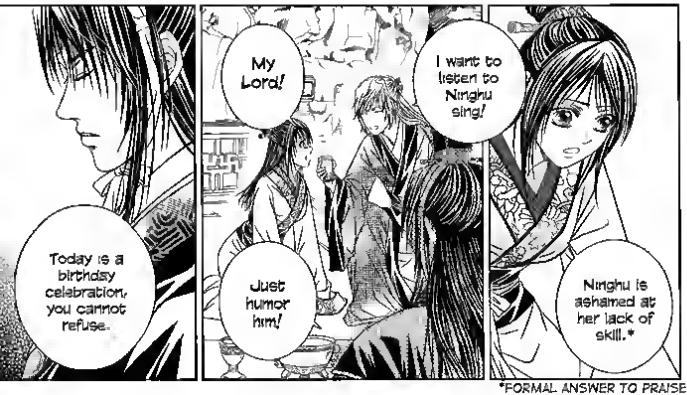
This old minister does not dare to accept your praise *
You have worked hard these years
and has come especially to bid Your Majesty farewell
This old minister will retire to his hometown shortly.

Rulers when established should not think what they will do when they are living.
But should consider what will happen when they die
The previous king has once told us ...
Whatever a ruler does during his life,
his merit can only be determined after his death
Your Majesty has performed admirably. the Kingdom of Qing is the most powerful there is
This old minister can depart in peace
Prime Minister—
This is what you have taught us as well.*
*THIS GUY, WAS HIS TUTOR IN CHAPTER 1. TUTOR TO THE CROWN PRINCE IS AN IMPORTANT POSITION, AND WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO THE FUTURE KING
We have heavily invested in the Qi citizen Lingyu,
and deeply favored the criminal daughter of the Jing who has lost her noble status.
The people of tomorrow, how will they view us?

EVEN SO, CAN I...
DISREGARD RIGHT AND WRONG...
AND PURSUE WHAT CAN NEVER BE?
Your Majesty is no longer the child he was six years ago.
Right or wrong, your Majesty should have his own views.
This old minister believes in Your Majesty.
But this old minister feels...
Even if your Majesty is the King, he will be the same as any other person...
Wanting what he doesn't have, it's understandable
Your Majesty should try to follow his heart.

FOR MYSELF...
TO FOLLOW MY HEART.

What a beautiful piece!
The daughters of Jing rightly deserve their renown


Today is a birthday celebration, you cannot refuse.
My Lord!
Just humor him!
I want to listen to Ninghu sing!
Ninghu is ashamed at her lack of skill.*

*FORMAL ANSWER TO PRAISE

LORD LING?
My Lady's medicine...
This is by royal edict.
so remove yourselves!
But...
No one can enter?
Ninghu!
Drink this!
WHAT A HORRIBLE EXPRESSION HE'S WEARING...
* LIKE B-DAY CAKE
My Lord!
Hurry up!
I don't drink too well...
This is my birthday cup,* you can't refuse!

Then...
Ninghu thanks your Majesty for this cup!

Don't force her
Drink this one instead.*
*SNEAKY--YOU ALSO CAN'T REFUSE WHEN THE KING OFFERS YOU HIS CUP

Your Majesty!

THAT'S RIGHT THE KING DOESN'T DRINK ALCOHOL AT ALL.
THE KING IS TRYING TO HELP ME?
THAT'S ONLY A CUP OF WATER

YOUR MAJ-ESTY, YOU...
We did what?
Eh?
This stuff really burns!
COUGH COUGH
You really are...
an idiot

We never said that wasn't mine.
You really are that easy to fool!
THE KING... IS LAUGHING?
THIS IS...
THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THE KING LAUGH...

I THINK LINGYU SHARES MY THOUGHTS
...All right.
Drink a couple more cups!
HE IS LAUGH-ING SO HAP-PILY
AND ALSO
WE WON'T FORGET THIS MOMENT
Ah... food...
Ninghu understands...
Ninghu will make his Majesty a meal!
Take it away! His Majesty won't be eating this!
Lord Stew-ard, this lowly one brings supper

咕嘟咕嘟...
.....
Ninghu specially made this...
venison soup that neither Lord Ling or your Majesty has tried!
TOO SALTY!
JING NINGHU! YOU!
My lord, drink it while it's hot!

Don't eat this...
Your Majesty,
Ninghu?
We... have eaten tasteless food for many years...
...too salty is acceptable
YOUR MAJESTY!
THIS SOUP...

Maybe the Jing didn't let her drink anything so strong?
This minister will bring her back so she can sleep...
I wouldn't have thought... she'd get drunk so easily
Don't touch her.
This present, she is a royal consort of Jing
Not your personal aide
Lingyu. Your birthday celebration
has ended.

Lord Ling...

We will sleep elsewhere.
Your majesty?
Should we bring the lady back?
Don't disturb her.
Yes.
Your Majesty
Your Majesty the King
My lady?
Wishing that...
Your Majesty the King
can always laugh so happily...

It is said that Lady Jing is drunk.
Yuanren has come to return Lady Jing to her sleeping quarters.
Yuanren!!!
You really...
don't trust us?
Your Majesty the King,

Yuanren does not dare.
If only your Majesty would make my Lady queen soon...
Yuanren could be at ease sooner.
We .
Will not make Jing Ninghu Queen.
Your Majesty!
Because of the Lingyu incident,
Jing Ninghu has been declaimed by the court.
We will discuss the matter later
YOUR MAJESTY THE KING!

Your Majesty truly wishes to renege
and wants to break his promise to Yuanren
You are not incorrect.
We don't want to listen to you anymore.
You leave them alone!
Yuanren...
No...

Royal Elder Brother Yuanren.

FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BURDENED YOU WITH MAF'S BISHIE PROBLEMS, COMES AN ALL NEW EPISODE. TSUKIKO AND HER WHIP OF MIGHTY JUSTICE!!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE MANGA TO SCANLATE!!
BUT MY DOCTOR SAID I NEED AN HOUR OF SUNLIGHT A DAY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING STAFFS!
PLAYING AROUND? TALKING? HAVING A LIFE?
SFX (3X) WHIP
NO MASTER TSUKIKO AS YOU SAY MASTER TSUKIKO...
WE HAVE ALL THESE MANGA AND SO LITTLE STAFF!
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